

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /134 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3157

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0088

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO MESA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN, US

SUBJECT: DISASTER: PRESS REPORTS

REF: NEW DELHI 0072

1. ACCORDING TO INDIAN PRESS REPORTS OF JAN 3 PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO PLAGUE THE CHASNALA MINE RESCUE OPERATION.

2. THE TIMES OF INDIA REPORTS "THAT FOUR PUMPS FLOWN FROM POLAND WOULD NOT BE USED AS THEY WERE OF MUCH LOWER CAPACITY THAN REQUIRED IN SUCH MINES." "THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN INSTALLING HIGH CAPACITY PUMPS FROM ABROAD WAS THAT THEY NEEDED A POWER LOAD OF 6.5 KV, AS AGAINST 3.5 KV AVAILABLE. TO MEET THE DEFICIT, ARRANGEMENTS FOR INSTALLING TRANSFORMERS WERE BEING MADE."

3. THE HINDUSTAN TIMES CARRIES LEAD ARTICLE "FOREIGN PUMPS POSE PROBLEMS". "THE PUMPS RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND POLAND WERE FOUND TO BE HORIZONTAL WHILE THE DEWATERING PROCESS IN THE CHASNALA HAS TO BE VERTICAL." THIS PAPER ALSO MENTIONS THAT NO USE WOULD BE MADE OF

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 00088 031156Z

THE POLISH PUMPS BECAUSE OF THEIR LOW CAPACITY. THE

ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY "THE BIGGEST PROBLEM INSTALLING HIGH-CAPACITY PUMPS FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WAS THAT THEY NEEDED A POWER LOAD OF 6.5 KV AS AGAINST 3.5 KV AVAILABLE."

4. AS REPORTED IN THE STATESMAN "FOUR POLISH PUMPS WHICH HAVE ARRIVED COULD NOT BE INSTALLED AS THEY ARE HORIZONTAL. ADDITIONALLY, POLISH TECHNICIANS WHO WERE TO INSTALL AND RUN THE PUMPS HAVE NOT YET COME. ON THE OTHER HAND, RUSSIAN EXPERTS HAVE ARRIVED WITH EQUIPMENT LIKE PIPES AND SOME CABLES BUT THEIR PUMPS HAVE NOT COME SO FAR."

5. THE PATRIOT ALSO MENTIONS THE LACK OF ADEQUATE POWER AT SITE TO RUN THE HIGH CAPACITY FOREIGN PUMPS. THE SOVIET TEAM ALSO INFORMED GOI THAT FIVE SUITABLE SUBMERSIBLE PUMPS WERE NOW READY FOR DESPATCH FROM MOSCOW.

6. ACCORDING TO INDIAN EXPRES "ALTHOUGH TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES CONTINUED TO HAMPER COMMISSIONING OF HIGH-PRESSURE PUMPS FROM POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION, THE DEWATERING OPERATIONS WERE FURTHER ACCELERATED TODAY." "AFTER HOLDING TALKS WITH OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN DEWATERING OPERATIONS AT CHASNALA, MR. MISHRA (BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER) SAID THAT FOUR PUMPS FLOWN FROM POLAND COULD NOT BE USED AS THEY WERE OF MUCH LOWER CAPACITY THAN REQUIRED IN SUCH MINES. DR.MISHRA SAID DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS OF PUMPS TO BE INSTALLED IN THE MINE HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND ACCORDINGLY THESE WOULD BE REQUISITIONED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES."SAXBE

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